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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

[REDACTED]

1. The following regulations and restrictions were most oppressive [REDACTED] 25X1X
[REDACTED] in Bulgaria:

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- a. Limited use of electricity for domestic purposes;
- b. Frequent compulsory meetings in the district political circles;
- c. Constant surveillance by the "House Trustee", who was a Communist Party member;
- d. Introduction of new passports with all the regulations and restrictions concerning them;
- e. Standing in line for hours to buy food;
- f. Frequent checks by the Militia;
- g. High cost of living;
- h. Fear of speaking to strangers;
- i. Fear of listening to Western broadcasts;
- j. No contact with foreigners; and
- k. Censorship of foreign correspondence and perhaps also of domestic correspondence.


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2. Among the regulations which source succeeded in "getting around" were the following:
 - a. Source used electricity when not supposed to;
 - b. Instead of going to political meetings, source excused herself saying that she had to go to the university or do extra work in her office; and
 - c. Source's friends and source listened to foreign broadcasts with windows closed and the door locked.
3. The local Communist Party cadre seemed to have the most difficulty with getting the people's cooperation. Everyone was trying to avoid any kind of duty or responsibility in district organizations. They invented all sorts of excuses such as overtime work in an office or factory, study, taking care of parents, and so forth. Persons who did not want to cooperate with the Communists in most cases cooperated only under pressure, because they wanted to keep their jobs and protect their families, or because the Communists threatened to prosecute them for some political "sin" in their past. 25X1X
4. 
5. The actions of the regime which most hurt its esteem were:
 - a. Economic reforms, especially the currency reform of 11 May 1952 when everybody who had saved money suffered a loss; everybody felt that the regime had robbed them; and
 - b. The new labor code through which workers lost free Saturday afternoon and which reduced their vacations; in addition, compensation for sickness, which used to amount to full salary, was reduced.
6. Among native customs, habits, and culture, the following suffered most as a result of Communism:
 - a. Family life;
 - b. Religion;
 - c. Education; and
 - d. Freedom of speech, organization, and expression which used to be guaranteed every Bulgarian under the Turnovo Constitution; education was also affected by the compulsory application of the Communist theory in science, literature, and the arts.
7. The people would like most to retrieve the rights of the Turnovo Constitution. With the return of those basic rights guaranteed by the State, the people would be able to reestablish a decent family life, religious worship, and freedom of education which would liberate science, literature, the arts, and music from Communist oppression.
8. The problems which have caused the Communists the most difficulty in the past three years may be summed up as follows:
 - a. With the introduction of the new labor code the situation on the labor front deteriorated; workers and employees resented having to work 48 hours per week; they were dissatisfied with the fact that they were tied to their place of work and that their sick leave compensation as well as

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vacation were reduced; as a result, the increased work week, instead of resulting in increased production, brought about reduced production;

- b. The currency reform showed that the State did not have enough money and was obliged to steal it from the people;
- c. The campaign against youth showed that the regime had increasing troubles in converting young people to Communism; and
- d. Frequent articles in Rabotnichesko Delo, the Communist Party newspaper, about vigilance and the struggle against "domestic enemies of the people" showed that resistance against Communism must be growing if the central newspaper 25X1X of the Communist Party has to write about it.

- 9. Concerning the actions source would advise friends [redacted] to take against the regime, she says the first thing would be to form circles of good friends; to listen to foreign broadcasts and to transmit the news to other people; to continue passive resistance, that is to avoid meetings whenever possible, never to join the Communist Party, to pass from hand to hand any publication from the West, and at meetings to ask questions which would be difficult for the chairman to answer, such as: "what about the sugar shortage? high prices? shortage of housing? rationing of electricity? education? passports?"
- 10. As for ostracism of Communist personnel, source said that practically everyone she knew tried to avoid any association with Communist Party members. On the other hand, the Communists themselves did not mix with non-Communists. In order to show in a passive way that they did not care for Communism, people celebrated Easter holidays not only as a religious holiday but also as a political demonstration against the regime. The young people's resentment against the regime was expressed in a fashion which was prevalent particularly in Sofia, that is of changing one's Bulgarian name to an English name. The young people also sang Western songs and danced Western dances to demonstrate the same sentiments.
- 11. Source believes that the most embarrassing, expensive, and disrupting event to the regime [redacted] was the currency reform of May 1952.
- 12. The most unhappy group of Communist officials seemed to be composed of intellectuals, teachers, scholars, and scientists.
- 13. There was passive resistance in Bulgaria and source believes that it was successful, especially among young people.

- 25X1A 1. [redacted] Comment: Easter is the greatest holiday of the year in Bulgaria.

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